



National Security Working Group

Special Report: Update on the Khalid Sheikh Mohammed Trial, Terrorism at Fort Hood & Afghanistan

**Congressman Tom Price (R-GA), RSC Chairman
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Khalid Sheikh Mohammed To Be Tried in New York

On November 11, 2009, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder announced that accused 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed will be tried in New York City.

- **This sends a clear message to our enemy: If you kill Americans on American soil you will have greater protections than if you attack Americans overseas.**

Former federal prosecutor, Andrew McCarthy [said](#), “It is foolish to think that al Qaeda does not train to our system and look for our vulnerabilities. Remember what Khalid Sheikh Mohammed told his captors when we got him, ‘I’ll see you in New York with my lawyer.’ It seems he knows our weaknesses better than our government does.”

Conducting this trial on U.S. soil is a risk to national security, as demonstrated fifteen years ago. In [the trial of Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman](#) for the 1993 World Trade Center bombings, the prosecution had to share with the defense a list of co-conspirators that ended up in the hands of Osama bin Laden just 10 days later.

The American people do not support the Administration’s decision to conduct a trial in New York: According to a [CNN story](#) from November 16, 2009, “The poll indicates that 64 percent believe Mohammed should be tried in military court, with 34 percent suggesting that he face trial in civilian court.”

For more information on Khalid Sheikh Mohammed's trial in New York City, please reference the following:

<http://www.9-11commission.gov/report/911Report.pdf>
<http://www.heritage.org/Press/Commentary/ed063008c.cfm>

Nidal Malik Hasan and the Fort Hood Tragedy

On November 5, 2009, Nidal Malik Hasan opened fire at a military processing center at Fort Hood Army Post and took the lives of fourteen people. He shot and killed thirteen unsuspecting, innocent American soldiers, in addition to an unborn baby being carried by one of the victims. Forty-three others were wounded in the attack.

- It should be made clear to the American public that Hassan was a terrorist. The Obama Administration is showing a greater proclivity for political correctness than they are at protecting Americans from individuals who adhere to a violent religious world-view. Additionally, evidence continues to mount that not only did Hasan have frequent contact with a radical Muslim Cleric living in Yemen, he also had numerous direct contacts with individuals in Pakistan and wire transfers to several accounts located there.

The Obama Administration specifically requested that the Senate postpone a briefing planned for this week on the Fort Hood massacre. Despite this, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee held a hearing on November 19th in which Senator Joe Lieberman (I-CT) [called](#) the massacre a “homegrown terrorist attack” and that law enforcement and military agencies may have failed to act appropriately. Many agree that “political correctness” may have played a role in preventing the release of some evidence.

[According to reports](#), ***Hasan came to the attention of law enforcement officials at least 6 months ago*** because of Internet postings, including: posts that equated suicide bombers to soldiers who throw themselves on a grenade to save the lives of their comrades; he gave a lecture to other doctors in which he said non-believers should be beheaded and have boiling oil poured down their throats; he told colleagues at Walter Reed that non-Muslims were infidels condemned to hell who should be set on fire; and sadly, one Army doctor who knew him said a fear of appearing discriminatory against a Muslim soldier had stopped fellow officers from filing formal complaints – a symptom of our culture.

[Fellow doctors recounted](#) how they were repeatedly harangued by Hasan about religion and that he openly claimed to be a "Muslim first and American second."

For more information on Nidal Malik Hasan and the Fort Hood tragedy, please reference the following:
<http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/1118/p02s07-usgn.html>
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33695256/ns/us_news-military/

Administration's Prolonged Delay on Afghanistan Strategy

On August 30, 2009, General Stanley McCrystal provided his Afghanistan strategy assessment and request for approximately 40,000 additional troops to the President. For additional information on the situation, please click [here](#) to see an RSC special report on the eight-year conflict. As of today, no action has been taken on the part of the Commander-in-Chief.

- To many, this delay is reckless and counter-productive. Each day that passes, the international community is watching -- both our allies who look to the U.S. for leadership and our enemies who are ever-looking for vulnerabilities. General Stanley McCrystal was handpicked by the Administration to replace General David McKiernan after he was removed from command on May 11, 2009. This indecision is making many wonder why the Administration is doubting and ignoring the recommendation from his preferred Commander. President [Obama](#) said in early September that he will not decide whether to send more troops until he has **"absolute clarity about what the strategy is going to be."** It has been almost 3 months, what is he waiting for?

According to [General McCrystal](#), **"Failure to gain the initiative and reverse insurgent momentum in the near-term (next 12 months) -- while Afghan security capacity matures -- risks an outcome where defeating the insurgency is no longer possible."** Three of those 12 months have passed.

On August 17, 2009, ***President Obama said***, "The insurgency in Afghanistan didn't just happen overnight and we won't defeat it overnight. This will not be quick, nor easy. But we must never forget: ***This is not a war of choice. This is a war of necessity.*** Those who attacked America on 9/11 are plotting to do so again. If left unchecked, the Taliban insurgency will mean an even larger safe haven from which al Qaeda would plot to kill more Americans. So this is not only a war worth fighting. This is a -- this is fundamental to the defense of our people."

- This leaves the American people wondering, if the President really means this, why would he delay providing the additional soldiers and resources to secure victory? Our troops cannot continue to afford further dithering.

For more information on the strategy in Afghanistan, please reference the following:

<http://www.understandingwar.org/press-media/webcast/kate-couric>

<http://www.understandingwar.org/afghanistan-project/publications/works-by-our-authors>

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